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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 HA-05
MCT-01 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-01 DODE-00 SY-05
/064 W

-----022375 062102Z /61

P R 062025Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5220
INFO AMEMBASSY ASUNCION

[REDACTED] BUENOS AIRES 2589

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SHUM, AR
SUBJECT: REPORTING DISAPPEARANCES

ARGENTINA PROJECT (S200000044)
U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/IPS
Margaret P. Grafeld, Director
(☒) Release (☐) Excise (☐) Deny
Exemption(s): _____
Declassify: (☐) In Part (☒) In Full
(☐) Classify as ____ (☐) Extend as ____ (☐) Downgrade to ____
Date _____ Declassify on _____ Reason _____

1. NUNCIATURA (STRICTLY PROTECT) TOLD US TODAY
APRIL 6 OF THE DISAPPEARANCE OF TWO PERSONS --
AND POSSIBLY OTHERS--OUTSIDE A CHURCH IN BUENOS AIRES
PROVINCE ON MARCH 26.

2. DR. RAUL EDUARDO PETROUCH AND HIS FIANCEE
MISS ELISA MORENO WERE REPORTED TO THE NUNCIATURA
BY PETROUCH'S FATHER TO HAVE BEEN ARRESTED LEAVING
A 6 PM EASTER SUNDAY MASS AT THE CATHEDRAL OF
SAN JUSTO, JUST OUTSIDE THE FEDERAL CAPITAL.
ACCORDING TO THE ELDER PETROUCH, HIS SON AND
SON'S FIANCEE WERE ARRESTED BY PERSONS PRESENTING
THEMSELVES AS MEMBERS OF THE STATE SECURITY SERVICES.
PETROUCH ALSO REPORTED TO THE NUNCIATURA HIS BELIEF
THAT OTHER PERSONS HAD BEEN ARRESTED AT THE SAME
TIME, BUT HE WAS UNABLE TO PROVIDE NAMES OR ANY FURTHER
DETAILS.

3. MASS WHICH DR. PETROUCH AND MISS MORENO HAD ATTENDED
WAS FOR A PARAGUAYAN REFUGEE WOMAN, CIRITA BENITEZ, WHO
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

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WAS REPORTEDLY ARRESTED HERE IN MARCH OF 1976 AND WHO
SUBSEQUENTLY IS BELIEVED IN REFUGEE CIRCLES TO HAVE BEEN

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KILLED DURING A TRANSFER FROM ONE PRISON TO ANOTHER. PETROUCH WAS PRACTICING AS A PHYSICIAN IN A WORKING CLASS DISTRICT AT THE TIME OF HIS ABDUCTION.

4. NUNCIATURA HAS REQUESTED INFORMATION FROM THE BISHOP OF SAN JUSTO. CONTACTS AT THE NUNCIATURA WERE NOT CERTAIN WHAT OTHER EFFORTS MR. PETROUCH MAY HAVE MADE TO LOCATE HIS SON. STORY HAS NOT APPEARED IN BUENOS AIRES HERALD WHICH ALONE AMONG BUENOS AIRES NEWSPAPERS WILL PRESENT THIS KIND OF NEWS WHEN REPORTED BY A FAMILY. CASTRO

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